
Claire Valdez

37

Source App

Submitter

Submission Date Mar 10, 2024 10:47 PM

Name Claire Valdez

Office Sought (New York State) **Assembly**

District Number 37

In which primary **Democratic**

What party line/s are you running under? Democratic, WFP

Age 34

Education Bachelors

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement

I've been a member of UAW Local 2110 for 5 years. Local 2110 is an amalgamated local that covers clerical workers like myself along with many museum workers, arts and culture workers, and academic workers. Since June 2022, I have been the unit chair of my shop of 500 administrative workers, call center workers, and cashiers, and I served on our last bargaining committee.

I have been a member of the union reform caucus, Unite All Workers for Democracy, for about 2 years. UAWD won direct democracy in the UAW and elected the militant reformers (President Shawn Fain, Region 9A Director Brandon Mancilla, and others), who are now in the midst of leading a historic Stand Up Strike against the country's most powerful automakers.

Finally, I am a member of and longtime leader in NYC-DSA. I joined in 2019, and have since served on my local branch Organizing Committee, on our chapter's Steering Committee, and as a leader in campaigns to re-elect Julia Salazar and to elect Samy Nemir Olivares. In DSA, I have also been a

leader on our Tax the Rich, Union Power, and Care Not Cuts city budget campaigns.

Email info@claireforqueens.com

Campaign Manager Name Stef McGraw

Campaign Manager Email mcgraw.stef@gmail.com

Scheduler contact info (If relevant) info@claireforqueens.com

Phone Number (319) 721-3689

Website claireforqueens.com

Twitter @claireforqueens

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/claireforqueens>

Instagram @claireforqueens

Have you completed the required campaign finance filings?

Are you participating in the State Public Campaign Finance Program?

Are you willing to be interviewed by Citizens Union's Local Candidates Committee?

Signature



What are your top three campaign promises or goals, and what action will you take to achieve them if elected?

First: Workers' Rights: Becoming a union member changed my life, but few of my neighbors in Queens are currently able to enjoy the security and solidarity that a union can bring. Workers who aren't

protected by a union—especially immigrant workers, tipped and gig workers, and workers of color—are most at risk of retaliation and exploitation on the job. I would prioritize winning workers the fundamental right to just cause, the ability to fight back against wage theft, the end of tipped minimum wage, and a higher minimum wage across the board. The inability of public sector workers to withhold their labor is also a massive impediment to organizing working class New Yorkers; I would prioritize amending the Taylor Law so all workers are able to use their most powerful weapon: the strike.

Second: Housing as a human right: For far too long, real estate has had a stranglehold on New York City, and the result has been the violent eviction and displacement of our Black and brown neighbors, the working poor, and anyone unable to keep up with skyrocketing rents and landlord harassment. AD-37 is no exception to this. In Ridgewood, we are seeing rampant speculation and gentrification threaten the displacement of families who have lived in this neighborhood for generations. We must decommodify housing if we are truly to make it a human right. That means moving toward social housing: passing legislation like the Social Housing Development Authority, Good Cause Eviction, universal rent control, TOPA, and supporting tenants organizing their buildings.

Third: Environmental justice and climate resilience: From flooding, to toxic air, to outrageous Con-Ed rate hikes, Queens faces climate chaos not in the distant future, but now. We must transition to a just, renewable future—and we can do so while creating good, union jobs. We must ensure the proper implementation of the Build Public Renewables Act; take public control over our utilities; use taxes on the rich to fund a Green New Deal for schools, housing, and transit; and ensure workers and tenants have access to the benefits of the transition to a renewable economy.

If elected, what is the first piece of legislation you would want to introduce? If you are an incumbent, what legislation have you passed which you are most proud of?

I would like to introduce a bill to inform unemployment to allow academic workers like cafeteria workers, adjuncts, and others who get laid off between semesters to apply for unemployment insurance.

In providing constituent services, what are the major needs of your district's constituents and how will you meet them?

The major needs of our district are related to tenant and workers' rights. Our constituent services program will connect tenants and workers with the resources they need to fight back against bad landlords and bosses, including hosting Know Your Rights trainings.

What experience have you had, if any, with good government and reform issues? (e.g. voting and elections, campaign finance, ethics, government transparency and oversight, police accountability). If you've worked to advance these goals, we'd love to hear about it.

I personally haven't worked specifically on these issues, but I have been on electoral campaign teams for candidates who have refused contributions from shady PACs and who have fought for police accountability.

How long have you lived in the district in which you are running?

5

1. Do you support moving city elections from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years, and will you vote in favor of legislation that enacts that change?

Yes

2. Do you support restarting the constitutional amendment process to enact same-day voter registration in New York?

Yes

3. Do you support improving voter participation in CUNY and SUNY colleges by requiring schools to develop and implement a student voter engagement action plan?

Yes

4. Do you support reducing the party-based hiring in boards of elections to the minimum currently required by the constitution?

Yes

5. Do you support implementing an open, competitive, merit-based hiring process for all election administration staff and certain functions at polls?

Yes

6. Do you support requiring election commissioners and top BOE staff undergo mandatory training developed by the State Board of Elections?

Yes

7. How would you use your power as a legislator to improve election administration in New York? Feel free to add any policy proposals you support in regards to reforming the BOE.

I believe the partisan nature of BOE hiring unfairly disadvantages candidates that aren't supported by the party establishments. I don't have a specific proposal, but I'm interested in finding ways to reform the BOE.

If needed, you may elaborate below on your positions on the previous questions.

8. Will you support fully funding new state public campaign finance program in the upcoming budget process?

Yes

9. Do you commit to opposing any attempt to undermine the State Public Campaign Finance Program by changing its rules to benefit large donors?

Yes

10. Do you support requiring campaigns to disclose a contributor's employer in campaign finance reports, as is done in NYC?

Yes

If needed, you may elaborate below on your positions on the previous questions. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

11. Who do you think should draw new district maps every decade in New York? (e.g., the current Independent Redistricting Commission, the Legislature/LATFOR, a new body)

I think the IRC should ideally do it, but we need to find a way to ensure there isn't the redistricting chaos we've seen this cycle.

12. Do you support changing the constitutional redistricting process to reduce the influence of legislators over

No

map-making process, make the redistricting commission less partisan and more diverse, and eliminate the Legislature's veto power over final maps?

If needed, you may elaborate below on your positions on the previous questions. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

The only part I object to in question 12 is eliminating the Legislature's veto power. I believe elected officials should still be able to exercise that power as a last resort.

13. Do you support establishing an independent ethics agency with commissioners not chosen by the elected officials they oversee, which would have oversight powers over the executive and the legislature (also replaces the Legislative Ethics Commission)?

Yes

14. Do you support requiring lobbyists to report their contributions and fundraising activity?

Yes

If needed, you may elaborate below on your positions on the previous questions. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on ethics issues.

15. Do you support giving the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board access to certain sealed and confidential records in matters involving potential police discipline?

Yes

16. Do you support transferring disciplinary hearings involving police officers from the NYPD to the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH)?

Yes

If needed, you may elaborate below on your positions on the previous questions.

17. Do you support maintaining the Commission on Judicial Nomination, which recommends candidates for the Court of Appeals to the Governor?

Yes

If needed, you may elaborate below on your positions on the previous questions. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

What is your win number (the number of votes needed to win this race), and what is your plan to achieve that number?

We're currently estimating our win number to be 4,500.

What are your current fundraising numbers? What are your fundraising goals?

We've raised \$84,000, and are planning to raise \$88,000 before this next filing deadline as well as hopefully max out on in-district contribution matching.

How many individual donors do you have?

958

Please indicate any endorsements that your campaign has received, if applicable (you can also share a link to a list of endorsements)

All the electeds listed on our website, as well as Asm. Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, Comptroller Brad Lander, Councilmember Jen Gutierrez, Councilmember Chi Osse, and Councilmember Sandy Nurse.

Please feel free to attach any additional information such as resume, campaign brochures, or issues statements.

All the orgs listed on our website, as well as Sunrise and CUFFH.

What else would you like us to know about yourself?

Preview Before Submit
